

Multifunctional landscapes

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Deadline for manuscript
submissions:

closed (15 April 2020)

Message from the Guest Editor

Dear Colleagues,

To deal with the complex challenges of changes such as land use change, complex approaches are required. Management approaches which focus on small spatial units, e.g. farm plots, and on specific functions, such as productivity, are no match for these challenges. Landscape approaches address multiple objectives at the same time across scales. Multifunctional landscapes are managed for functional diversity with the aim of maintaining a full range of ecosystem services.

Landscapes are dynamic entities which change according to the influence of environmental, socio-economic, cultural and political factors. While some historic land use practices have been able to maintain or even enhance multifunctionality in landscapes, current trends of land use change lead towards homogenization of landscapes and reduction in ecosystem services.

To counter these trends, Integrated Land Use Systems (ILUS), such as agroforestry systems which combine trees with crops and/or farm animals, are promoted with the aim of attaining multifunctionality on the farm level and within mosaic landscapes.



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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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